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## PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

## Mortality Report—Government Employees.

The Governor General of the Philippine Islands reports, July 15, 1912, as follows: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, total number of government employees, 9,395; deaths, 40; average years service, 5.62; average age at death, 32; annual death rate per thousand, 5.65.

## Protection Against Plague.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, May 31, as follows:

The plague epidemic along the China coast is constantly increasing in severity, and is a grave menace to the Philippines. The constant spread and increase in the number of cases and deaths in the nearby ports of Hongkong and Kowloon are particularly dangerous to these islands. For the two weeks ended May 18, 1912, 346 plague cases, with 297 deaths, were reported from Hongkong.

The case which developed in a contact undergoing detention at the Mariveles Quarantine Station well illustrates the insidious nature of the present outbreak. The masked symptoms that occurred in the two cases of pneumonic plague which were detected at Manila in the steamers *Loongsang* and *Zafiro* have already been reported in my letter of April 11. In this last case the medical officer in command of the Mariveles Quarantine Station observed on April 30, 1912, that the patient had a temperature of 38.9° C., and pulse of 100, with a few symptoms of pneumonia. Up until May 6 he ran an irregular temperature which varied between 38.6° and 39.8°, and on May 5 he expectorated a small quantity of blood. Smears of this were made, but no suspicious organisms could be found. During all this time the patient stoutly maintained that he was not ill, that he felt perfectly well, and strenuously objected to being detained in the hospital. On May 6 his temperature and pulse suddenly dropped, and on the morning of that day a slight enlargement of the glands in the right axilla was noted. By 5 p. m. they had shown considerable increase in size; the right side of the neck was swollen and tender; and there was also tenderness in the right groin. The patient now stated that he felt very ill. Before midnight the palpable glands throughout the body were constantly increasing in size, and at 7 o'clock on the morning of May 7 the patient died. Laboratory examinations, subsequently made, fully established the diagnosis of pneumonic plague.

From the foregoing it is evident that the illness in the patient who died on the steamer *Loongsang* was not noted by the officers and laymen on board, and that the unusual strain caused by heaving on a rope, as was alleged, might well have hastened his death before the symptoms could be noticed by the officers of the vessel.

The rats killed by the biweekly fumigation of vessels plying between Hongkong and Amoy and Manila have been examined at Manila for plague. The results to date have all been negative.

There is reason to believe that plague has been present for some time in Amoy.

Cabin passengers are detained in quarantine at Mariveles, if they have lived in the Asiatic quarters of the China coast. Advices from the plague centers tend to show that, just now, the well-to-do classes,